

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2022

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF PEPR CH VN

SUBJ: FURTHER DETERIORATION OF SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

REF: PEKING 1958

1. SUMMARY. OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE. IRRITATED BY VIETNAM'S ADMISSION TO CEMA AND CONTINUED PROBLEMS OVER REFUGEE REPATRIATION, THE PRC GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE CANCELLATION OF ALL AID PROJECTS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ITS TECHNICIANS FROM VIETNAM. MEDIA ARTICLES CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE VIETNAM'S INTRANSIGENCE ON THE OVERSEAS CHINESE ISSUE. IN ADDITION, A JULY 3 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL CONDEMNED SOVIET PROPAGANDA SUPPORT OF
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VIETNAM AND SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO SLANDER THE PRC POSITION ON OVERSEAS CHINESE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. COMPOUNDED BY VIETNAM'S ADMISSION TO CEMA AND UNRESOLVED REPATRIATION PROBLEMS, SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. THE PRC HAS VERY FEW OPTIONS LEFT SHORT OF BREAKING DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS. THE PRC ANNOUNCED IN THE JULY 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY THAT IT HAS NOTIFIED VIETNAM OF CANCELLATION OF ITS AID AND WITHDRAWAL OF ITS TECHNICIANS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED VIETNAMESE MISTREATMENT OF OVERSEAS CHINESE.

3. THE PRC HAS ALSO REACTED STRONGLY TO THE SOVIET AND VIETNAMESE CHARGE THAT THE PRC IS EXPLOITING OVERSEAS CHINESE TO PURSUE "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. A FRONTPAGE JULY 3 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL ("OPEN AND ABOVEBOARD AND CONSISTENT") CONDEMNED SOVIET "INSINUATIONS" AND "LIES" THAT THE PRC IS USING OVERSEAS CHINESE AS "FIFTH COLUMNS." THE EDITORIAL ALSO RESTATED THE PRC'S POSITION ON THE OVERSEAS CHINESE QUESTION (FIRST ANNOUNCED IN THE 1955 BANDUNG CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL):

- THE PRC HAS NEVER SUPPORTED DUAL NATIONALITY FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE;
- THE PRC "SUPPORTS AND ENCOURAGES" OVERSEAS CHINESE TO ADOPT VOLUNTARILY THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE COUNTRY OF THEIR RESIDENCE;
- WHEN OVERSEAS CHINESE ADOPT THE CITIZENSHIP OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, THEY ARE ENTITLED TO THE FULL RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP OF THAT COUNTRY AND THEY ARE OBLIGED TO ABIDE BY THE LAWS OF THEIR ADOPTED HOMELAND;
- IF AN OVERSEAS CHINESE DOES NOT ADOPT THE CITIZENSHIP OF HIS COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, THEN HE

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MUST REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

THE EDITORIAL ALSO STATES THAT THOSE WHO ACQUIRE CITIZENSHIP OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES CAN NO LONGER BE CALLED "OVERSEAS CHINESE." THE EDITORIAL QUOTES FROM HUA KUO-FENG'S POLITICAL WORK REPORT TO THE FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (IN FEBRUARY), UNDERSCORING PRC CONCERN THAT MISINTERPRETATION OF ITS POLICY TOWARD THE OVERSEAS CHINESE ISSUE WILL HARM PRC RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS THEME WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN A JULY 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORT ON AN INTERVIEW WITH A SPOKESMAN OF THE STATE COUNCIL OVERSEAS CHINESE OFFICE.

4. THE RESTATEMENT OF PRC POLICY IS STILL AMBIGUOUS, HOWEVER, THE EDITORIAL REPEATS CHAIRMAN HUA'S STATEMENT THAT EVEN AFTER CHINESE HAVE ADOPTED THE CITIZENSHIP OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, THEY STILL HAVE "TIES OF KINSHIP" TO THE PRC. THIS STATEMENT CONTINUES TO DISTURB SOUTHEAST ASIAN DIPLOMATS IN PEKING, AND ITS REPETITION IS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST

ASIA APPREHENSION TOWARDS THE PRC'S OVERSEAS CHINESE
POLICY.

4. VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES,
HAVE LAUNCHED A "WELL PLANNED AND ORGANIZED" CAMPAIGN
TO PERSECUTE OVERSEAS CHINESE IN VIETNAM. "UNDER
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED
TO INTERVENE." IF THE VIETNAMESE PERSIST, THE PRC
WILL "TAKE CORRESPONDING STEPS" -- A THREAT THAT IS
LEFT UNDEFINED.

5. COMMENT: PRC OFFICIALS ARE CONTINUING TO REACT
EMOTIONALLY TO THE OVERSEAS CHINESE ISSUE, AND THE
DISPUTE WITH VIETNAM WILL PROBABLY ESCALATE. VOA
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REPORTED JULY 5 THAT RADIO HANOI HAD ACCUSED THE PRC
OF ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING 90 UNDEFINED AREAS ALONG THE
SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER. THE FACT THAT THE SINO-
VIETNAMESE DISPUTE INVOLVES NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE
OVERSEAS CHINESE ISSUE BUT ALSO LONG FESTERING TERRI-
TORIAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE DISPUTED SPRATLY AND
PARACEL ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, CONTRIBUTES TO
ITS SERIOUSNESS.
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